



Washington State Department of Early Learning

EARLY LEARNING ADVISORY COUNCIL (ELAC) MEETING MINUTES

June 4, 2008

Tyee Conference Center

Overall Purpose:

The purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council (ELAC) is for representatives from the state's early learning stakeholder communities to provide input and recommendations to the Department of Early Learning (DEL) so that DEL's strategies and actions are well-informed and are broadly supported by parents, early care providers, health/safety experts and interested parties. The Governor holds final authority for policy decisions and her P-20 Council will be made aware of ELAC's input to DEL.

Today's Intentions:

- Progress update from the Director and DEL staff
- "What have you done for a child today?"
- Introduction to and discussion of the new DEL Web Site
- Next Steps

In Attendance:

Jone Bosworth
Amber Havens
Graciela Italiano-Thomas
Lorena Lowell
Paula Smith
Maria Vera

Senator Roger Goodman
Robin Higa
Senator Claudia Kaufman
Jim Skucy
Linda Sullivan-Dudzic
Sue Winn

Welcome, Overview, Agenda Review

Lorena Lowell, co-chair, welcomed all, reviewed the agenda for the day and the overall purpose of the Early Learning Advisory Council. There was discussion of having an updated official list of the members at the October meeting after all appointments for next year are made. Discussion was held of having a monthly call-in conference call for the members. October's meeting would be the Quarterly Business Meeting.

Introductions – Who is here?

Members in attendance introduced themselves and the public was invited to do so as well.

Department of Early Learning – Status and Progress Report

Director Jone Bosworth welcomed all. Director introduced the DEL Staff who were at the meeting. A handout of the power point presentation was made available to the Council and will be posted on the Early Learning Advisory Council page of the Department of Early Learning's Website

<http://www.del.wa.gov/ELAC/ELAC.html>.

DEL Parent Needs Assessment: Handout “Perspectives from Washington State Parents” and on the other side “Perspectives from the Public – DEL’s 2008 Public Awareness Poll” distributed to members. Discussion was held on the preliminary findings and final report to be issued in July.

Border/Interstate Reciprocity: Discussion on professional development credits and formal agreements. Lynne Shanafelt discussed meeting she attended with Oregon and Idaho. Not one state has a formal agreement, some have informal agreements. Washington is drafting a proposal and signing together in early July at a Round Table Region X Meeting.

Ready or Not: Leadership Choices: Ready or Not book given to all members in their packets. Authors of the books will be coming to a DEL All Staff Meeting on June 17 and the next day June 18 the authors will be meeting at a Community Meeting in Seattle. Discussion held on the book and desired results.

DEL 2009-2013 Strategic Plan: The Strategic Plan is due out June 13 and all members will be getting a copy. Approach taken was what we know right now; what we’ll do; what we need to do it and what could stop us. The plan was based on: DEL parent needs and desires assessment; DEL public polling; assessment of agency and national research and consultants.

DEL Communications: Presentation by Amy Blondin, DEL Communications Manager. Handout in packet for the members. Goals: Build public awareness and will to act and strengthen dialogue with parents and caregivers. To be posted on the DEL website by the end of June. Hope to launch a very brief monthly up on the website.

DEL Meth Summit 2008: Presentation by Claudia Shanley, Assistant Director, DEL Systems, Partnership and Collaboration Division. Summit will be held June 23, 2008. Discussion regarding the summit.

WA “Head Start”: Discussion on the Head Start timeline. Report due December 1, 2009 – funding June 2008-June 2009. Rep. Goodman was the sponsor of this bill. There will be a meeting between Rep. Goodman and DEL Head Start staff on June 23, 2008.

School Readiness and Transition Timeline: Staff working with OSPI in connection with Thrive by Five due December 15, 2008.

Overview of Quality Rating Improvement System (QRIS)

Presentation by Dr. Juliet Torres.

A handout of the power point presentation was made available to the Council and will be posted on the Early Learning Advisory Council page of the Department of Early Learning Website <http://www.del.wa.gov/ELAC/ELAC.html>. In May, DEL received community feedback from pilot sites on the one Washington State model. Feedback included discussion around current resources and varying levels of intensity as well as inclusion of the school age population. The presentation included information on the history of QRIS in Washington, previous provider forums, design to implementation process, goals of QRIS, the model as a system of attraction, the quality standards and model description, implementation flowchart, Tools of the Mind as an example of an evidence based approach to support educators and children, and the importance of one statewide model. Information was presented for ELAC members. After lunch, a panel consisting of Dr. Torres and pilot site community members – Debbie Hamm from Clark County, and Sherry Cowan and Diane Johnson from Kitsap County discussed the community process involved in their respective counties.

Exchange of Information

Maria Vera – asked how to get feedback to Dr. Torres. Dr. Torres will make sure there is a place on the DEL website for feedback and will send information out to all the members.

Sue Winn – Thanks and all did an excellent job

Robin Higa – Thanks for all the great information – simpler is better.

Paula Smith – Very excited to come to her first meeting.

Jim Skucy – There is a new provider in the school district; United Way is engaged in community solution and long term planning and put out an RFP targeting particular groups for funding for two projects.

Amber Havens – Probably been the best meeting so far.

Jone Bosworth – Spoke to the expansion of the Early Childhood Education Assistance Program (ECEAP) this coming school year – 38 or 39 counties involved – Garfield County does not have ECEAP. Discussed her trip to BC and the connection with them now.

Lorena Lowell – Stated that subsidized children who participate in after care activities cannot go places as it would be an extra charge so they started a non-profit to make sure there is money for the children to go. Other project is a more child-care-provider-structured reading curriculum. Also trying to apply for grants for toys, etc.

Public Comments

Elizabeth Bonbright Thompson from CCR&R, commented on QRIS; encouraged members to go on the CCR&R website to see the new restructuring for the CCR&R management hub and network.

Donna Horne – child care provider – very pleased with QRIS and will be meeting with providers this weekend to discuss. Donna also discussed the Dolly Parton Reading program in Skagit County – children who sign up get a free book each month until they are 5 years old.

Future Meetings, Next Agenda Items, Next Steps

The next meeting will be held October 8, 2008. Discussion was held about what the agenda should look like and if meetings should be longer or shorter, different location, etc. Council decided wanted one full day, with a full agenda. Possibly have a work and social event the night before if the location is moved to a different city.

For all ELAC communications please send email to elac@del.wa.gov.